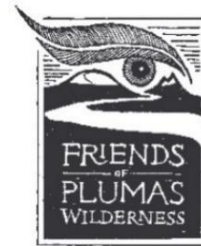
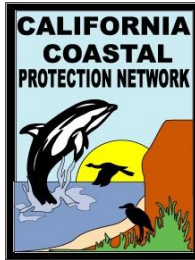




Carbon Cycle Institute



May 7, 2020

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3030 - Support

Dear Chairwoman Friedman,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to support Assembly Bill (AB) 3030 by Assembly member Kalra. This bill would improve protection of California's unparalleled biodiversity with creation of a state policy that sets a goal to protect at least 30 percent of the land base and waters in California and 30 percent of the ocean waters off the coast of California by 2030 ("30 by 30"), with objectives to protect biodiversity, increase climate resilience, promote collaboration, increase opportunities to sequester carbon through natural measures, and enhance public access for all people in the state, with a specific emphasis on increasing access for communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

This bill comes at a critical time. Nature around the world is in a state of crisis, threatening our planet and humanity. The third most recent National Climate Assessment found that climate change is reducing the ability of ecosystems to provide clean water and regulate water flows, limiting the ability of nature to buffer communities from the impacts of natural disasters, changing migratory patterns, and threatening our food systems.

Further, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that approximately one million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction over the coming decades, as a result of human impacts. As a globally significant biodiversity hotspot with an exceptional concentration of endemic species, California has much to lose. At least 686 California species are at risk of extinction, and two-thirds of the state's native plants will lose most of their range in the next 100 years.

Finally, as California's health and economic systems are challenged by the COVID-19 global pandemic, which likely was spread from animals to humans as a result of habitat loss and overexploitation, the effect of the biodiversity crisis on people is more pronounced than ever.¹

Fortunately, there is currently an opportunity for coordinated global action to safeguard nature and humanity's future. As a first step toward solving the nature crisis, scientists have called upon countries to protect at least half of our planet as natural areas by 2050. International and national leaders are stepping down this goal with a commitment to protect at least 30 percent of the planet by 2030. Twenty-five countries have already expressed agreement with the 30 by 30 target, and leaders are working towards a goal of 100 countries by the time the United Nations meets at the Convention on Biological Diversity in early 2021.

¹ Johnson, C.K., Hitchens, P.L., Pandit, P.S., Rushmore, J., Evans, T.S., Young, C.C.W. & Doyle, M.M. (2020). Global shifts in mammalian population trends reveal key predictors of virus spillover risk. *Proc. R. Soc. B*, 287, 20192736.

California already is a leader in protecting biodiversity, with approximately twenty-two percent of its land area in protected status and a globally recognized network of marine protected areas (MPAs) covering roughly 16% of coastal state waters. With AB 3030, California can continue to lead the way towards meeting this important conservation goal and set an example for the rest of the country and the world.

For these reasons, we urge an “Aye” vote on AB 3030.

Sincerely,

Pamela Flick
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Ann Notthoff
Senior Western Advocacy Director
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mariela Ruacho
Education & Communications Program Manager
California ReLeaf

Dan Jacobson
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Rico Mastrodonato
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Debra Chase
CEO
Mountain Lion Foundation

Mike Lynes
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Marcela Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
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Michael Wellborn
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Andria Ventura
Toxics Program Manager
Clean Water Action

Brian Nowicki
California Climate Policy Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Bryan Hatchell
Desert Lands Organizer
Friends of the Inyo

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Hills for Everyone

Torri Estrada
Executive Director and Director of Policy
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Craig Thomas
Director
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Wild Rivers Director
California Wilderness Coalition

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Planning and Conservation League

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Leslie Mintz Tamminen
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Seventh Generation Advisors

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EAC of West Marin

Geary Hund
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Mojave Desert Land Trust

Lance Morgan, Ph.D
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Marine Conservation Institute

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Legislative Director
Friends Committee on Legislation of CA

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Inland Ocean Coalition

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President and Founder
Ocean Defenders Alliance

Kristen Hislop
Marine Conservation Program Director
Environmental Defense Center

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Friends of the Desert Mountains

Geoff Shester, Ph.D.
CA Campaign Director and Sr. Scientist
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